

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. In an integrally-formed cover for a container comprising a
2 cylindrical portion, a top portion having a shaker opening and a spooning
3 opening, a shaker flap having an outer edge with a downwardly extending
4 skirt and coupled to the top portion and configured for selective movement
5 between an open position in which the shaker opening is opened and a
6 closed position in which the shaker opening is covered by the shaker flap, a
7 spooning flap having an outer edge with a downwardly extending skirt and
8 coupled to the top portion and configured for selective movement between an
9 open position in which the spooning opening is opened and a closed position
10 in which the spooning opening is covered by the spooning flap, at least one
11 projection extending from the spooning flap to releasably retain the spooning
12 flap in the closed position, the improvement comprising:
13 the projection extending from the shaker flap comprises a tab;
14 and
15 a guide provided with the tab so that movement of the shaker
16 flap from the open position to the closed position initially brings the guide into
17 wedging interaction with an inner edge of the shaker opening and further
18 movement of the shaker flap brings the tab into wedging interaction with the
19 inner edge of the shaker opening;
20 so that the shaker flap is retained in the closed position by the
21 wedging interaction of the tab against the inner edge of the shaker opening.
- 1 2. The cover of Claim 1 wherein the shaker opening comprises a
2 plurality of shaker openings and the guide is configured for wedging
3 interaction with at least one of the plurality of shaker openings.

1 3. The cover of Claim 1 further comprising an upwardly projecting
2 lip extending substantially around an outer portion of the top portion, the
3 shaker flap and the spooning flap, whereby the lip is configured to position a
4 container bottom stacked on top of the cover.

1 4. The cover of Claim 1 wherein the guide is provided at the center
2 of the tab.

1 5. The cover of Claim 1 wherein the guide includes a curved
2 portion extending beyond a free end of the tab.

1 6. The cover of Claim 5 wherein the curved portion of the guide is
2 configured to contact the inner edge of the shaker opening.

1 7. The cover of Claim 6 wherein the curved portion of the guide is
2 provided on the outer surface of the guide.

1 8. The cover of Claim 7 wherein the curved portion of the guide
2 comprises a cam portion.

1 9. The cover of Claim 8 wherein the cam portion is defined by at
2 least one radius.

1 10. The cover of Claim 1 wherein the tab extends angularly
2 downward from an underside of the shaker flap and at least partially through
3 the shaker opening when the shaker flap is in the closed position.

1 11. In a closure for a container comprising a base having at least
2 one opening for dispensing a material from the container, a cover coupled
3 atop the base having at least one flap movable between an open position for
4 dispensing the material and a closed position for covering the opening, at
5 least one projection extending from the flap to releasably retain the flap in the
6 closed position, the improvement comprising:

7 a guide extending from the projection; and

8 a guide surface provided on the guide and configured to contact
9 an edge of the opening when the flap is moved toward the closed position and
10 configured to create a wedging interaction with the edge of the opening when
11 the flap is moved further toward the closed position;

12 so that the flap is retained in the closed position by the wedging
13 interaction of the projection and the edge.

1 12. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the cover and the base are
2 integrally formed.

1 13. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the opening comprises a
2 shaker opening and a spooning opening and the flap comprises a shaker flap
3 and a spooning flap.

1 14. The closure of Claim 13 wherein the shaker flap and the
2 spooning flap are integrally formed with the cover.

1 15. The closure of Claim 13 further comprising an upwardly
2 projecting lip extending at least partially around an outer portion of the cover,
3 the shaker flap and the spooning flap, whereby the lip is configured to position
4 a container bottom stacked on top of the cover.

1 16. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the guide surface comprises a
2 curved surface defined by at least one radius.

1 17. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the edge is an inner edge of
2 the opening.

1 18. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the wedging interaction is
2 formed by movement of the guide surface relative to the edge.

1 19. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the flap is retained in the
2 closed position by friction between the projection and an edge of the opening.

1 20. The closure of Claim 11 further comprising a plurality of guides
2 and at least one guide surface on each guide.

1 21. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the guide extends substantially
2 perpendicularly from the projection.

1 22. The closure of Claim 11 wherein the guide is a stiffener for the
2 projection.

1 23. In a closure for a container comprising a base including at least
2 one opening for dispensing a material from the container, a top portion
3 coupled to the base having at least one flap movable between an open
4 position for dispensing the material and a closed position for covering the
5 opening, a first projection extending from the flap to retain the flap in the
6 closed position, the improvement comprising:
7 a second projection extending from the first projection; and
8 a guide surface provided on the second projection and
9 configured to contact a portion of the base adjacent the opening when the flap
10 is moved toward the closed position and configured to create a wedging
11 interaction with the portion of the base adjacent the opening when the flap is
12 moved further toward the closed position;
13 so that the flap is retained in the closed position by the wedging
14 interaction of at least one of the first projection and the second projection with
15 the portion of the base adjacent the opening.

1 24. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the first projection is a tab
2 integrally formed with the flap.

1 25. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the second projection is a
2 guide integrally formed with at least one of the flap and the first projection.

1 26. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the first projection and the
2 second projection are configured in a T-shape.

1 27. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the wedging interaction is
2 created by movement of the guide surface relative to the portion of the base
3 adjacent the opening.

1 28. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the opening comprises a
2 spooning opening and the flap comprises a spooning flap.

1 29. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the opening comprises at least
2 one shaker opening and the flap comprises a shaker flap.

1 30. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the first projection is a tab
2 extending angularly downward from an underside of the flap.

1 31. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the second projection is a
2 guide configured to stiffen the first projection.

1 32. The closure of Claim 23 wherein the guide surface is a curved
2 surface that extends at least partially through the opening when the flap is in
3 the closed position.

1 33. In a closure for a container comprising a base including at least
2 one opening for dispensing a material from the container, a top portion
3 coupled to the base having at least one flap movable about a hinge between
4 an open position for dispensing the material and a closed position for covering
5 the opening, the improvement comprising:

6 a first elongate recess and a second elongate recess formed in
7 the top portion;

8 a first projection extending from a first side of the flap;

9 a second projection extending from a second side of the flap;

10 so that the first projection is configured to fit at least partially
11 within the first elongate recess and the second projection is configured to fit at
12 least partially within the second elongate recess when the flap is in the closed
13 position.

1 34. The closure of Claim 33 wherein the first elongate recess and
2 the second elongate recess are substantially perpendicular to the hinge.

1 35. The closure of Claim 33 wherein the first projection comprises a
2 side skirt extending downward from the first side of the flap.

1 36. The closure of Claim 35 wherein the second projection
2 comprises a side skirt extending downward from the second side of the flap
3 opposite the first side of the flap.

1 37. The closure of Claim 33 wherein the first elongate recess and
2 the first projection are substantially parallel to the second elongate recess and
3 the second projection.

1 38. The closure of Claim 33 wherein the first projection and the
2 second projection comprise a side wall extending downwardly from opposite
3 sides of the flap.

1 39. The closure of Claim 33 wherein the at least one flap comprises
2 at least one of a shaker flap and a spooning flap.

1 40. The closure of Claim 33 wherein the first elongate recess, the
2 second elongate recess, the first projection and the second projection are
3 substantially straight.

1 41. The closure of Claim 33 further comprising a third projection
2 extending downward from a free end of the flap opposite the hinge.

1 42. The closure of Claim 41 wherein the first projection and the
2 second projection are interconnected by the third projection.